
Soccer Update

email: "chockenberry@trlsd.org Craig Hockenberry"

Friday, September 20, 2019 at 12:26:22 PM Eastern Daylight Time

To: email: "chockenberry@trlsd.org Craig Hockenberry"

Bcc: email: "lwhiteley@trlsd.org"

Principal Smiley and Dr. Blair at West High are handling the situation.

The head coach at West High has made a complaint to his AD (today 9-20-19 at 10:49am) which we received in an email from him. Although it is a month later Principal Smiley and Mr. Herges are investigating the claim and taking it very serious.

I'm providing to you the statement from West High Coach that we received today at 10:49am, however please keep in mind that this is the first time both Principals have received this email and they need to investigate it.

Regardless, our team is on this...

CONFIDENTIAL

Hello Phil,

On

Wednesday August 21st, our Boys Varsity Soccer team played away at Taylor High School. It was the first game of the season and we were excited to kick things off.

Unfortunately

we started the game slowly and Taylor got a 2 goal advantage before halftime. We made some halftime adjustments and came out ready to assert ourselves a bit more on the field, unfortunately the game ending up being more about matters that didn't involve sport, but rather pejorative language from Taylor fans and players toward our team.

During

the second half a group of Taylor HS supporters (they appeared to be Taylor HS students) yelled, in unison "YOU SUCK" at one of our players, [REDACTED] A few minutes later these students proceeded to yell this disrespectful remark a second time, at which point I became outraged and said to the center referee "Sir, is that acceptable?" The referee did not seem interested in address the comments. Seeing that the referee was not willing to address the issue, I turned to the Taylor HS staff that was on my sideline, the time/scorekeeper, athletic trainer, and coaching staff. The Taylor staff assured me that the Athletic Director had bene made aware of the situation.

The

students yelled "YOU SUCK" a third time, at which point I again became upset, and asked the referee "Sir, is that acceptable" multiple times. After the third outburst, the Junior Varsity Soccer coach sprinted around the field toward the stands - seemingly to address the issue.

Later in the game, the school's Athletic Director approached me on the sideline and assured me that the issue was being addressed.

After

the game, I looked over and saw [REDACTED] waiting patiently to get on the bus. He was clearly dejected so I asked him what was bothering him and he said that he was tormented with aggressive language (which I had heard) and racist language (which I had not heard). [REDACTED] informed me that he was frequently called a "Spic", was told to "go back to his country", was told "come on, learn how to speak english", and "fucking beaner".

When

we returned to the locker rooms at West High, [REDACTED] uncle pulled me to the side and informed me that he heard Taylor HS fans calling our players "wetback" and "monkey".

This

type of treatment, and use of language has no place in High School sports. What I witnessed, and what I heard reported from my player and his uncle is appalling. it is my hope that we can find a way to bring consequences about for this treatment, and find protocols to put in place to prevent future behavior like this.

We

entered the evening with such hope for a positive sporting experience that our students can use to help develop as young men and learn from the competitive experience. Unfortunately the evening was more about racist treatment, unsporting behavior and lack of oversight from school/team staff. Simple things, like apologies, or an announcement to the fans/players did not occur.

Discouraged and outraged,

—
Alex Kuhns
Head Coach
Boys Varsity Soccer
Western Hills High School

Craig D. Hockenberry
Superintendent
Three Rivers Local School District



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06/15/17

06/15/17

Fwd: Western Hills and Taylor HS Soccer Incident

email: "lherges@trlsd.org Larry Herges"

Friday, September 20, 2019 at 10:49:16 AM Eastern Daylight Time

To: email: "msmiley@trlsd.org Mark Smiley" , email: "chockenberry@trlsd.org Craig Hockenberry" , email: "jlangdon@trlsd.org Jeff Langdon" , email: "lwhiteley@trlsd.org Lisa Whiteley"

For the Love of the Game

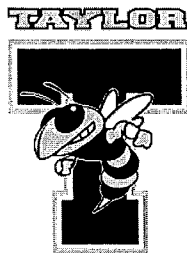
Larry Herges, RAA

Athletic Director

Taylor High School

Three Rivers Middle School

(O) 513-824-7421



**Respect
THE
GAME**

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Phillip O'Neal** <onealph@cpsboe.k12.oh.us>

Date: Fri, Sep 20, 2019 at 9:10 AM

Subject: Western Hills and Taylor HS Soccer Incident

To: Carlos Blair <Blairca@cpsboe.k12.oh.us>

Cc: <lherges@trlsd.org>

Good Morning,

I was out the first two weeks of school due to my Army Annual Training. I was told later there was an incident at our soccer match between us and Taylor. My coach frustrated from being treated in such a manner for years first reached out to a reporter of the enquirer. I told my coach that is not protocol and not how we do things here at Western Hills within Cincinnati Public Schools. I told the reporter we are not allowing them to create a story where we handle things at the school level. The coach will write up a statement and that statement will be shared with my principal and the school's Athletic Director where a resolution will be made. After reading the statement. Below is the incident report of Head Soccer Coach Alex Kuhns from the Varsity Soccer match between Western Hills and Taylor on 8/21/19, please read and give feedback on next steps:

Hello Phil,

On Wednesday August 21st, our Boys Varsity Soccer team played away at Taylor High School. It was the first game of the season and we were excited to kick things off.

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During the second half a group of Taylor HS supporters (they appeared to be Taylor HS students) yelled, in unison "YOU SUCK" at one of our players [REDACTED]. A few minutes later these students proceeded to yell this disrespectful remark a second time, at which point I became outraged and said to the center referee "Sir, is that acceptable?" The referee did not seem interested in address the comments. Seeing that the referee was not willing to address the issue, I turned to the Taylor HS staff that was on my sideline, the time/scorekeeper, athletic trainer, and coaching staff. The Taylor staff assured me that the Athletic Director had bene made aware of the situation.

The students yelled "YOU SUCK" a third time, at which point I again became upset, and asked the referree "Sir, is that acceptable" multiple times. After the third outburst, the Junior Varsity Soccer coach sprinted around the field toward the stands - seemingly to address the issue. Later in the game, the school's Athletic Director approached me on the sideline and assured me that the issue was being addressed.

After the game, I looked over and saw [REDACTED] waiting patiently to get on the bus. He was clearly dejected so I asked him what was bothering him and he said that he was tormented with aggressive language (which I had heard) and racist language (which I had not heard). [REDACTED] in formed me that he was frequently called a "Spic", was told to "go back to his country", was told "come one, learn how to speak english", and "fucking beaner".

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This type of treatment, and use of language has no place in High School sports. What I witnessed, and what I heard reported from my player and his uncle is appalling. It is my hope that we can find a way to bring consequences about for this treatment, and find protocols to put in place to prevent future behavior like this.

We entered the evening with such hope for a positive sporting experience that our students can use to help develop as young men and learn from the competitive experience. Unfortunately the evening was more about racist treatment, unsporting behavior and lack of oversight from school/team staff. Simple things, like apologies, or an announcement to the fans/players did not occur.

Discouraged and outraged,

—
Alex Kuhns
Head Coach
Boys Varsity Soccer
Western Hills High School

Thanks,

Phillip O'Neal

Athletic Director

Western Hills University High School
Gilbert A. Dater High School
2144 Ferguson Road

Cincinnati, OH 45238

office: 513-363-8940

cell: 513-328-2151

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